



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WARM WEATHER MEANS MOSQUITOES, WEST NILE VIRUS *County Warns Residents: Overwatering Leads to Mosquito Breeding*

With the temperatures high and the sun shining, the region's lawns and gardens may be looking thirsty. But residents should be careful not to overwater, County Vector Control officials say. Just an inch of standing water is all it takes for mosquitoes to breed – and West Nile virus to spread even more.

Today officials announced that two more samples from mosquito pools in Kearny Mesa and Poway and 23 dead birds have tested positive for the disease. The birds -- 17 American crows, two Stellar's jays, two Western scrub jays, one red-shouldered hawk, and one mourning dove – were found in the following communities: Bonita, Cardiff, Del Mar, Dulzura, Escondido, Fashion Valley, Julian, Mira Mesa, Oceanside, Pacific Beach, Paradise Hills, Pauma Valley, Poway, Ramona, University City and Vista. This week's count brings the year's total to 285 dead birds, eight sentinel chickens, 12 mosquito samples, one horse and five humans.

"These positive results remind us that we need to protect ourselves against mosquitoes, especially with the warm summer weather," said Gary Erbeck, Director of the County Department of Environmental Health.

"Take the time to check your yard and ensure your door and window screens are in good repair and fit tight. I urge you to take those few extra steps to protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites," Erbeck said.

Residents should protect themselves by not overwatering, removing standing water from around their homes and check common breeding sources once a week. A complete checklist can be found on the County's West Nile virus Web site, www.SDFightthebite.com.

When spending time outdoors during dawn and dusk hours, use EPA-registered, CDC-recommended insect repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or IR 3535. For more information regarding effective insect repellents, visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/repellentupdates.

For information on WNV, or to report neglected swimming pools and mosquito breeding sites, please call County Vector Control at (888) 551-INFO (4636). ###